



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



## Burns Waterway Small Boat Harbor, IN

### Project Features

- Located on Lake Michigan near the city of Portage, Lake County, Indiana.
  - Authorization: Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960.
  - Project depths are 11 ft. in the approach channel, 10 ft. in the inner harbor, and 6 ft. in the River Channel.
  - Combined length of 1,688 linear feet of rubblemound breakwater structures.
  - 5,200 ft of Federal channel in the harbor and channel leading to the public marina.
- The channel also serves numerous private marinas upstream of the public marina.

### Project Needs

- Maintenance repairs of both the North and West breakwaters were completed in FY 2003 and remain in satisfactory condition.
- The current condition of the navigation channel is as follows: Approach channel has severe shoaling, limiting channel depth to 4.0 ft. Inner Harbor project depth is 10 ft; current condition has approximately 6 ft. of shoaling, limiting the current channel depth to 4.0 ft. River project depth is 6 ft; current condition has approximately 1.5 ft. of shoaling, limiting the currently channel depth to 4.5 ft.
- The 2007 hydrographic survey showed severe shoaling in the channel following a storm event. Sampling and testing of channel sediment is needed to prepare for future dredging. There is currently 30,000 CY of shoaling in the harbor and 20,000 CY of shoaling in the channel.
- The harbor and channel was last dredged in 2000 and the dredged material was suitable for beach nourishment. The sediment was placed just west of the harbor. It is probable that the harbor and channel sediment will again be suitable for beach nourishment, but the sediment needed to be tested for any possible contaminants.



### Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- The available depth of the navigation channel is reduced due to shoaling. Shoaling currently adversely affects recreational boats with drafts more than 4 feet and will impact more boats as the channel continues to deteriorate. Within a few years, it is probable that the channel will shoal significantly to restrict all but the shallowest of boats. Funding of channel maintenance in all recreational harbors is lower priority than commercial harbors.

### Transportation Importance

- The harbor provides berthing and launching for hundreds of recreational boats. Numerous marinas are located upstream of the federal project. In addition, the harbor and channel provide safe refuge for recreational boats on southern Lake Michigan traveling between Michigan City and Chicago's Calumet Harbor during periods of adverse weather. The commercial harbors in the immediate area, such as Burns Harbor, Gary Harbor and Indiana Harbor do not have any facilities for the protection of recreational boats during intense periods of rapidly developing summer/fall thunderstorms.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2008, 2009 and 2010  
Burns Waterway Small Boat Harbor, IN - Project Needs and President's Budget**

<b>Work Package</b>	<b>FY08 Need</b>	<b>FY08 Allocation</b>	<b>FY09 Need</b>	<b>FY09 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY10 Need</b>	<b>FY10 Budget*</b>
Project Condition Surveys	10	10	12	0	13	
Sampling/Testing of Harbor and Channel for Maintenance Dredging – primary work package	11	50	-	-	-	
Maintenance Dredging of Harbor and Channel – Primary work package	-	-	1,000	0	-	
Structural Repair - North and West Breakwaters	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	

\*FY10 President's Budget will be available in February 2009.

**Congressional Interests**

- Representative Peter J. Visclosky, D-IN-1
- Senator Evan Bayh, D-IN
- Senator Richard G. Lugar, R-IN